

I claim:

1. In an acoustic musical instrument of the violin family, which includes a body having a top, a plurality of strings having different resonant frequencies, a bridge supporting said strings, said bridge having feet which are
5 pressed against said top by tension in said strings and causing said top to vibrate in accordance with vibrations of said strings, and a bass bar supporting said top under the foot of said bridge closest to the bass strings, the improvement which comprises:

10 a pickup comprising one or more piezo-electric sensing element(s), said pickup being located between a foot of said bridge and said vibrating top.

2. In an acoustic musical instrument of the violin family as recited in claim 1 wherein said pickup is located between the foot of said bridge closest to said bass strings and said vibrating top.

3. In an acoustic musical instrument of the violin family as recited in claim 2 wherein substantially all of the force exerted by said base side foot is transmitted to said vibrating top through said piezo-electric sensing element(s).

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~~3~~ 4. In an acoustic musical instrument of the violin family as recited in claim ~~1~~^{1/6} wherein said piezo-electric sensing element(s) are encased in a foil sandwich which provides shielding from external electric fields.

~~4~~ 5. In an acoustic musical instrument of the violin family as recited in claim ~~4~~³ wherein said pickup is flexible and is conformable to the shape of said top.

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